

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Minutes

November 12, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Robin L., Maggie H., and Michelle were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the November 5, 2008 executive summary. Andrew motions to replace his name with Nick's as the person that announced ND's Got Talent. Robin B. seconded. Shawnika motions to be removed from the absent list. Katie M. seconded. Kevin motioned to approve the minutes. Julie seconded. *The November 5, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:10 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bob says that he met with Bill Kurt to talk about off campus safety. He announces that Bill Kurt will be at COR next week, and anyone is invited to come. *Kirk*
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. He and Bob talked with someone to talk about discounts off campus. He adds that this will also help the university.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Karen says that she met with the dance marathon committee from St. Mary's on Thursday. She says that we will cosponsor by providing students with information.
 - ii. She says that she met with the Tri-campus Commissioners to discuss how the campuses are responding to off campus safety. She adds that she will be reporting to Gus, Nicole, Billy- who are also working on this agenda with their respective committees. She says that they will meet once a month. She says that they will also talk about study spaces.
 - iii. She says that the posters for the Blood Drive are ready, and she adds that people can begin to sign up for shifts.
- d. Ms. Kristen Lewis, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Ms. Lewis says that they have been discussing changes to the appeal tenure process.
 - ii. She says that they will also be having a session to discuss women hiring.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan B. says that the first in a series of the Last Lecture series will take place tonight. He says that it will be taped by NDTV.

- ii. He says that he and Katie M. met with someone from the Joyce Center to discuss having Major's Night there.
 - iii. He says that they are also looking into helping students prepare for test necessary for post preparation. He says that they are also working on the online database syllabus.
 - iv. He says that he has also been working with the director of the Career Center, and the spaces in the Career Center will be open to study from 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
 - v. Grant asks how this should be promoted. He asks that everyone go back to their dorm to let everyone know.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
- i. Gus says that the sub-committee is working on gathering information for the off campus website.
 - ii. He says that he has also been working on the off campus website as well as working with the Office of Student Affairs.
 - iii. He says that he is on the Committee of Off Campus Safety, and they are working on a off campus list serve. He says that they are trying to figure out how to implement this.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
- i. Pat says that on the 18th and 19th from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., they will have Campus Assault Research Tables set up around campus.
 - ii. He says that they will be distributing t-shirts for Sexual Assault Awareness.
 - iii. He says that this Saturday and Sunday after mass they will be passing out the Spirit of Inclusion cards.
- d. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
- i. Ally says that Sunday they talked about minority faculty hiring, which we will talk about today. She says that they will be writing a reflection about this in the upcoming weeks.
 - ii. She says that they also talked about Martin Luther King Day.
- e. Committee on Oversight
- i. Ian says that they did not meet last week; however the suspension clause will not be done anymore.
- f. Committee on Residence Life
- i. Zach says that they are looking at getting more items in Grab 'N Go.
 - ii. Julie asks if the Grab 'N Go surveys are to be distributed to should the Senators just ask the members of the dorm. Ryan P. says that Joy will give the survey to the Senators and they are to take a straw count.
 - iii. Karen says that Joy will be back to pass out the surveys before the meeting is over.
- g. Committee on Social Life
- i. Julie says that they pushed the Farmers' Market back until the spring.
 - ii. She says that they are looking into the possibility of purchasing swipers from another group on campus to use for the donation initiative.
 - iii. She encourages everyone to join the Carbon Rally.

- iv. Ben asks what do we get if you win. Julie says that we will get 10,000 dollars if we win.
- v. Catherine asks when the last day is to sign up. Julie says that you can sign up until right before the game.
- h. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Ashlee says that there will be a lecture on December 4th based on the economy. The lecture will be given by Professor Christopher Whaler.
 - ii. Robin B. asks where the lecture will take place. Ashlee says that it will be in the Montgomery Room.
- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. Sarah says that 3,658 students took survey. She adds that the committees are analyzing the results.
 - ii. Shawnika asks if the result s will be for student government or for the entire student body. Sarah says that the student body will know about.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin says that he has a meeting tomorrow to discuss getting printers in the dorm.
 - ii. He notifies everyone that they can now print pharos printers from ndsecure.
 - iii. He says that the mobile help desk finished their second day today, but it was not used as much as they had wished. He asks what the lack of use was due to. Everyone says that it was due to the lack of publicity. He says that the last one will be in the library next week.
 - iv. Julie says that the lack of use may have been also due to bad locations.

V) **GENERAL ORDER**

- a. Discussion Re: University Committee on Cultural Diversity and University Committee on Women Faculty and Students
 - i. Grant says that this discussion will be in regards to diversity and student involvement, and faculty diversity. He says that a nice composition will be written in regards to this discussion. He says that he hopes that everyone had a chance to look at the links that the sent out. He says that when we talk about diversity we are talking about all aspects, not just race.
 - ii. He starts with the student life handout. He asks for ways to get students involved. He asks if everyone understands this. He asks if anyone feels that there is a need to promote diversity in a programming manner.
 - iii. Karen asks if having events would be effective.
 - iv. Pat says that the events that they do have are not inclusive enough. He says that he does not feel welcome enough. He suggests changing how the event is opened up.
 - v. Mike S. says that he agrees. He says that he hears the name, but does not know what it is about. He suggests getting the information out there.

- vi. Ben says that the way that it is set up now is that it is divided by ethnicity. He says that a change to diversity in general would draw more people into the events.
- vii. Ryan suggests not putting on events just for the sake of simply putting on an event. He thinks that they should think big, and maybe bring in a speaker.
- viii. Gus says that it is important to get student input. He says that with the World View initiative, no one has heard of the movies typically. In the case of a speaker, get student input so that they can see if student would want to go.
- ix. Katie says that they should not get rid of events like Asian Allure. She suggests having bigger events.
- x. Devin says that the events are usually for a target audience. The target audience for Asian Allure is Asians, and is used as a way to build bonds for people of that race instead of integrating the campus.
- xi. Shawnika says that some of these concerns were brought up in the MAC meeting. She asks in what ways can they give out more information. She says that you must take it upon yourself to ask what an event is or contact someone to see what the event is. She says that BCAC may have advertised more than Dillion Pep rally, but more people attend those types of events. She asks what is the difference. Julie suggests using smaller events to promote bigger events.
- xii. Anastassia says that one should focus on the events that we have now, and not pick one and forget about the others.
- xiii. Robin B. says that in her dorm set aside money to buy tickets for Asian Allure, which will be even more advertisement for it.
- xiv. Kevin says that he hears about the big events all the time, but he does not hear about the smaller events.
- xv. Ryan P. says that every year they get ticket for Asian Allure, and it is very popular. He recommends getting the dorms to do this. Ally says that is up to the multicultural commission of the dorm to use the money allocated to them to purchase tickets.
- xvi. Karen asks who they are presenting the suggestions to on the handout. Grant says that we will get to that. Grant clarifies that this is not a proposal to replace events like Asian Allure.
- xvii. Pat says that the name and marketing play into this. He adds that sometimes it seems like it is just for a certain group of people, which is maybe the reason why people are not involved in this.
- xviii. Nick asks does the student body really care, because if they did they would go out and look into learning more about the events. He says that there is a disconnect that we must address first.
- xix. Mike S. suggests making people that are timid, but interested in the event more welcomed into the club. He says that he does not necessarily feel welcomed at Black Images.
- xx. Shawnika says that everyone is welcome to be in the Black Fashion Show, and they will be having tryouts tonight.

- xxi. Gus says that in order to encourage dialogue, we should get eh university involved. He suggests maybe having diversity as the topic of the forum.
- xxii. Pat K. says that why not seek to hire all women not just because of the color of their skin. He then goes on to quote Martin Luther King Jr.
- xxiii. Bob says that this meeting is to look at what Fr. Jenkins has put in front of us. He suggests turning the attention to the packet. He asks if anyone has any good ideas.
- xxiv. Ryan says that a good idea to have events like Black Images filmed and put on iTunesU for the people that want to take part in the event but do not feel welcome.
- xxv. Grant moves to discuss the packet. He says that this program is called 'We Are ND'. He says that they want to have events such as an International Showcase. He says that they want to have a weeklong celebration of indoor and outdoor activities. He asks if this is a good idea.
- xxvi. Julie says that she is not sure that a weeklong event with smaller events is not as effective as the way that programming is now.
- xxvii. Anastassia says that one of the issues with the weeklong celebration is that the small event will go off the diversity track. She says that we have to make sure that we stay true to making it about diversity.
- xxviii. Ian says that he likes the idea of having a universe event. He says that smaller events around campus can sometimes get washed away.
- xxix. Katie W. says that it is good to add events. She says that they should add events that will get people interested.
- xxx. Ryan B. says that it might be a symbolic thing to have Martin Luther King Jr. day off in order to have this day.
- xxxi. Kevin says that he likes the idea of having a lot of things in a week. He says that if they spread the events out then it will be like it is now, but if they put the events in the span of a week then it brings more focus to it. He adds that they should continue events outside of this as well.
- xxxii. Grant says that the diversity programming grant aspects allows groups to receive grants to put on events. He says that this is aimed for groups that do not have enough funds to put on an event. Katie W. asks if this is for any group or just for a diversity based group. Ally says that this is for anyone promoting diversity.
- xxxiii. Devin asks if it is for clubs. Grant says that it is for clubs and faculty.
- xxxiv. Pat asks if they will specify the gays and lesbian groups.
- xxxv. Pat K. suggests adding the dorms to this list just in case they want to put on a diversity event.
- xxxvi. Grant moves to discuss Hero Days. He says that it is designed to highlight the attributes of an individual from various culture groups.
- xxxvii. Ashlee says that she likes it. She says that it does not have to be big necessarily.
- xxxviii. Lauren says that it can be academic as well; therefore everyone will benefit in multiple ways.



- lix. Julie says that we should be more concerned with retention of the diverse faculty members. She wants to know what happens to make them leave.
- lx. Shawnika says that it is important to have a more diverse faculty. She says that BSA was just instated, and they were having trouble with finding a sponsor which she thinks would not have been the case if we had a more diverse faculty.
- lxi. Grant goes over the reasoning behind providing diversity.
- lxii. Gus says that he is majoring in Spanish, and he thinks that a Spanish professor can bring something extra to the table that someone that is not of Spanish decent could not offer.
- lxiii. Robin B. does not think that their hiring should not be focused on their race, but rather on their quality to teach. She says that they should look applicants that are minorities, and then put them in a common pool of all applicants and see how they rank.
- lxiv. Professor Lewis says that you have to look at other aspects as well when hiring someone.
- lxv. Grant turns to recruitment of women faculty. He asks if this is something that we look at.
- lxvi. Kevin says that he is not a fan of us comparing ourselves to other schools. He thinks that we should focus on us. He also thinks that hiring women is important. He says that he works for a female in her lab, and she says the problem is with keeping women.
- lxvii. Ryan H. says that we should look at the qualifications of who is hired.
- lxviii. Robin L. asks for the opinion of Professor Lewis.
- lxix. Professor Lewis thinks that things have gotten better for women here. She says that when she was here for undergraduate, there was one woman in the biology department. She says that it takes a critical mass to find their comfort zone in the workplace that if full of middle aged white men. She says that when one comes in and they are one among many then it makes it hard to keep women faculty.
- lxx. Devin says that the members of student government spitting out ideas is not as helpful as hearing the people in the field give their opinion. He thinks that a diverse faculty can help in some aspects.
- lxxi. Bob says that they came to us and asked for student opinions. He says that what we talk about tonight does matter.
- lxxii. Katie M. says that if you look at the teaching styles of women and men then they have different types of teaching styles, and it teaches you to work with different type of people when you leave here.
- lxxiii. Ian asks how do you go about keeping people here.
- lxxiv. Grant says that they are looking at giving surveys, spousal hiring, child care, etc.
- lxxv. Robin B. says that can they can ask female professors to come together to see what their major reasons for leaving are. She suggests maybe having a focus group that meets once a week to discuss this.

- lxxvi. Professor Lewis says that she is not sure why people leave. She says that it could have been due to not getting tenure.
- lxxvii. Devin says that we need to get input from the faculty.
- b. Online Intramural Registration Resolution
 - i. Zach says that they are trying to move registration online. They were trying to use the ND market space, but it is a little more complicated than they planned so they need help of OIT. This resolution is saying that we support their helping get this started.
 - ii. Devin asks if there has been any talk with OIT to let them know that there will be costs associated with this. Joy says yes.
 - iii. Grant asks if there are any grammatical changes to the resolution.
 - iv. Ben motions to change Informational in lines 4 and 7 to Information. Robin B. seconded this motion.
 - v. Grant moves to voting. The resolution was approved at 7:22 p.m.

VI) NEW BUSINESS

VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Joy says that there are still shifts for DVD rental. She asks that people sign up for them.
- b. Katie M. asks if they found out anything about the cell phone service. Devin says that a few companies have given Notre Dame money to put up more towers but they are waiting to see where the architects think that they will be best served.
- c. Kevin says that a week from Thursday they will have the Miss ND pageant in Washington Hall at 8 p.m.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Gus motioned. Zach seconded. *The November 12, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Toole
Student Body Secretary